volumes consist of numerous plates in lithography.

Edward Blore, Esq., F.S.A., presented exterior and interior views of the ancient refectory at Great Malvern, which appears to have been wholly constructed of wood, including the windows, which were square-headed, but had very elegant tracery. The roof was high pitched, and handsomely ornamented. This very curious structure was wantonly demolished in 1841 by a speculative tradesman, and it is believed no other representations of it than Mr. Blore's have been preserved.

J. A. Cahusac, Esq., exhibited some antiquities found at Stony Stratford, consisting of three spears, an arrow-head, and two Roman coins, one of them of the Emperor Constantine.

H. C. Harford, Esq., communicated an account of some ruins, supposed to be Roman, excavated at Preston, near Weymouth; and exhibited several of the remains found there, consisting of great iron bars, swords, &c.

John Gough Nichols, Esq., F.S.A., communicated some remarks on a patent appointing Edward Duke of Somerset, Governor of King Edward the Sixth, Protector of the Realm, and Lieutenant and Captain-general of the Wars. This important document, which is now in the possession of William Staunton, Esq., of Longbridge House, near Warwick, bears the sign-manual of the king and of sixty-two other persons; and Mr. Nichols shewed that it received the signatures of the peers in the House of Lords on the last day of the first session of King Edward's Parliament. It appears never to have passed the great seal, its progress having been stayed after the breaking up of the Parliament. Its most remarkable feature is a clause declaring the tenure of the duke's high office to be terminable at the king's pleasure, expressed in writing under the great seal; whilst in the patent under which the office was actually held, and which is printed in Burnet's "History of the Reformation," the term of the duke's regency was to be commensurate with the king's minority, which the late king's will had fixed at the age of eighteen.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY.

Those who have been absent from the "City end" of this great metropolis for a series of years will be somewhat startled if they have occasion to pay a visit to that part of London. "Stands the City where it did?" may perhaps be their exclamation of astonishment on contemplating the march of improvement which is now so rapidly approaching its climacteric point. To say nothing of the immense advantages obtained some years back by the removal of old London-bridge and its contiguous abominations, the abolition of Crooked-lane and the purlieus of the once famous "Boar's Head Tavern," and the opening of a new bridge across "Old Father Thames," with handsome and spacious approaches, it is only necessary to make a circuit of half a mile round the Royal Exchange, in order to be made in some degree acquainted with the reforms effected from time to time in that important commercial locality. Some of our more elderly readers may perhaps have a faint recollection of old Princes-street, on the west side of the Bank of England, which some fifteen years ago was not wider, if we rightly remember, than Finch-lane is at present. Now, on the other hand, we have a fine wide street, which, continued by Moorgate-street, forms one grand and direct line of communication from the Mansion-house to Islington. On the eastern side of the Bank, Bartholomew-lane has been latterly most conveniently widened, and the old ruined tower which formerly reared its head at the north-western corner, flanked by a boot-maker's stall (for it could hardly be dignified by the term "shop"), has given place to a handsome *façade* of buildings, which very worthily hold up their heads by the side of the New Royal Exchange. Going still further it will be found that the old and ugly little church of St. Benet Fink is now on its last legs, and on the eve of final extinction. The unsightly heap of bricks and mortar yclept "Bank-buildings" is already levelled with the ground, and the elegant portico of the new Exchange may now be viewed to some advantage. By the encroachment of this edifice, two very ancient city thoroughfares, "Castle-alley" and "Bank-street," have been utterly annihilated, but, of course, without any diminution to the public. The alley of "chop and steak" houses, cigar-shops, &c., which formerly ran along the east side of the old Exchange, has also been destroyed, although Finch-lane still remains intact and unimproved. In Threadneedle-street the increased width of the thoroughfare will shortly be carried out along its whole length by the removal of the houses and shops in front of Merchant Tailors'-hall; and the "Hall of Commerce" (as it is termed) has been erected, since 1842, upon the site formerly occupied by the old French Protestant church—as ugly a building, perhaps, as architect ever devised. It had stood, however, for nearly three hundred years, and some curious antiquarian discoveries were made beneath the foundations when it was pulled down by Mr. Moxhay.—*Times.*

RAILWAY BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26.

Maryport and Carlisle Railway Bill.—Read a second time and committed, and referred to the committee of selection.

Brighton and Chichester Railway Bill.—Motion made and question proposed "That the Bill be now read a second time;" amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the question to add the words "upon this day six months:" question put "That the word 'now' do stand part of the question:"—The house divided; ayes, 193; noes 48;—main question put, and agreed to.—Bill read a second time and committed, and referred to the committee of selection.

Stratford (Eastern Counties) and Thames Junction Railway Bill.—Motion made and question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time;" amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the question to add the words "upon this day six months;" question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the question;" amendment, by leave, withdrawn; main question put and agreed to.—Bill read a second time and committed, and referred to the committee of selection.

Colchester and Harwich Railway (No. 2) Bill.—Read a second time and committed, and referred to the committee of selection.

Manchester and Birmingham Railway (Macclesfield and Poynton Branches) (No. 2) Bill.—Reported; report to lie on the table, and to be printed.

Norwich and Brandon Railway Bill.—Report considered; amendments agreed to; Bill to be engrossed.

York and Scarborough Railway Bill.—Report considered; amendments agreed to; Bill to be engrossed.

Midland Railways Consolidation Bill.—Reported; report to lie on the table, and to be printed.

Furness Railway Bill.—Reported; report to lie on the table, and to be printed.

Guildford Junction Railway Bill.—Report considered; amendments agreed to; Bill to be engrossed.

Brighton, Lewes, and Hastings Railway Bill.—Read a second time and committed, and referred to the committee of selection.

Gravesend, Rochester, and Chatham Railway.—Petitions for leave to proceed; of James Pim, and members of the provisional committee for constructing the Gravesend, Rochester, and Chatham Railway; to lie on the table, and to be printed.

London and South Western Railway (No. 1) Bill.—Read a second time and committed, and referred to the committee of selection.

COLLECTIONS TOWARDS A GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURE.—No. II.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Having in a late number of THE BUILDER considered the word ABACUS, it is now proposed to define the moulding called ECHINUS.

Professor Hosking thus explains the word: "Echinus (Gr. ἐχῖνος, an egg), a moulding of eccentric curve, which, when it is carved, being generally cut into the forms of eggs and anchors alternating, the moulding is called by [illegible]" (Dictionary, p. 38.)

In those buildings which belong to the best age of Grecian art, the days of Pericles and his chief architects, Callicrates and Ictinus, as seen at Athens, Bassæ, Sunium, Thoricus,

defines it as "the same as the ovolo or quarter-round, though the moulding is only properly so called when carved with eggs and anchors. It is the shell or husk of the chestnut, though the ornament does not seem to bear much resemblance to it." (Encyclopædia, p. 968.) The learned Evelyn's quaint description may be welcome: "It is, indeed, a quarter-round, and sometimes more, swelling above the cinctures, and commonly next to the abacus carved with ovals and darts (by our workmen called eggs and ankers in little politely), which is frequently shut up with a smaller ovolo of beads and chaplets, or like ornament; but so adorned, it commonly runs under the Ionic voluta, and that of the Composita, and next the Doric abacus, as in that singular example of the Trajan column, it creeps under the plinth of the capital. Such as pretend to etymologies for every thing they hear, will have it ἐχίνος παρὰ τὸ ἔχειν, or συνέχειν ἐαυτὸν, because of a kind of self-contraction; others more rationally, from the resemblance of roughness in the carving, ἐχίνος τραχύτητος, as bristling with darts like a hedge-hog, or rather the thorny husk of a chestnut, which being opened discovers a kind of oval-figured kernel, which dented a little at the top the Latins call *Decacuminata Ova*." To these definitions we may add that the word is Latin, but derived from the Greek, "qui terrestris est, et crinaceus etiam appellatur, et marinus, a spinis quibus *ἐχιναι*." (Lex. Schrevelii.) The primary meaning of echinus is a sea-urchin which is armed with prickles. Secondly, it is put for the rough prickly shell of chestnuts, and lastly, for the chestnut itself, from a resemblance of whose contour the moulding under consideration derives its name. In Roman architecture this moulding is called an ovolo, from *ovum* (Latin) an egg, to which in shape it is somewhat like, more especially when carved. We shall first consider the moulding as it is found in Grecian architecture, to which alone the term echinus is strictly applicable.

In the best examples with which we are acquainted, as, for instance, in the Parthenon and Theseum, the echinus has nearly the same projection as the abacus (it is actually the same in the temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassæ), and we shall find that the sharper is its outline, that is, the more it is remote from the quarter-round, the more it is held in estimation; and that as it approaches the ovolo in form so it may be traced to belong to a declining period, or one nearer to the time of the Roman use of the Doric order. If we grant for a moment that timber-construction afforded the first hints for architectural composition, and that the origin of the abacus may be traced to the intervention of a cube of wood between the column and its entablature; where will the advocates of this system find the prototype of the echinus? To the Greeks we must look for the adoption of this beautiful moulding, which connects in such a happy manner the square abacus with the circular shaft; and truly may it be said to be their own invention, even if we are compelled to admit that some slight hint for it is to be found among the heavy capitals of Egypt. Professor Hosking has well observed: "Greek architecture is distinguished for nothing more than for the grace and beauty of its mouldings; and it may be remarked of them generally that they are eccentric and not regular curves. They must be drawn, for they cannot be described or struck; so that though they be called circular or elliptical, it is seldom that they are really so; not but that they may be, but if they are, it is considerably the result of chance, not of design. Hence all attempts to give rules for striking mouldings are worse than useless, for they are injurious: the hand alone, directed by good taste, can adapt them to their purpose, and give them the spirit and feeling which render them effective and pleasing." (Treatise on Architecture, p. 38.)*

In those buildings which belong to the best age of Grecian art, the days of Pericles and his chief architects, Callicrates and Ictinus, as seen at Athens, Bassæ, Sunium, Thoricus,

* We do not believe this to be borne out by example; on the contrary, we think the Greeks had a rule for every thing in their architecture, the discovery of which was directed by genius, but its [illegible]